

REMOVAL ACTION FACT SHEET

5/97

**CORNELL-DUBILIER ELECTRONICS
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY***Fact Sheet***REGION: II****ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS: N/A****INCIDENT CATEGORY: Active Production Facility****START DATE: N/A****NPL: No****OSC: Wilson****COMPLETION DATE: N/A****INCIDENT DESCRIPTION:**

The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site ("Site") is located at 333 Hamilton Boulevard in South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The Site occupies approximately 25 acres in an industrial/commercial/residential area. It is bordered by commercial businesses, residences wetlands and the Bound Brook. Conrail railroad tracks crisscross the unnamed tributary just north of the Site. Other industries are scattered to the northeast and east of the Site on the opposite side of the Conrail tracks.

It is estimated that 540 persons reside within 0.25 miles of the Site. The nearest residential homes are located on Hamilton Boulevard and Spicer Avenue within 200 feet from the Site. The total population estimated to live within one mile of the Site is 8,700 persons.

Cornell-Dubilier Electronics (Cornell-Dubilier) operated at the Site from 1936 to 1962 manufacturing electronic parts and components, including capacitors. In addition, it is reported that Cornell-Dubilier tested transformer oils for an unknown period of time and deposited polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated materials and other hazardous substances directly onto Site soils.

The Site is currently known as the Hamilton Industrial Park and is occupied by 15 commercial businesses. Through the years, dozens of companies have operated at the Site as tenants. Currently the Site is unsecured.

MATERIALS:

Sampling conducted by EPA between June 1994 and July 1996 has revealed a wide variety of contaminants at the Site. Based on the available data, it appears as though the PCB aroclor-1254 is the most prevalent and significant contaminant present at the Site. It has been detected in the facility driveway, in a field used as a parking area for trucks, in a footpath that crosses the site and in the sediment and surface water of the adjoining stream. Significantly elevated levels of lead and cadmium are also present at a number of locations. A wide range of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and low levels of several organic solvents (i.e., 1,2-dichloroethene and trichloroethene), and other heavy metals (chromium, silver, and arsenic) are also present. The quantity of contaminated soils and sediments at the Site is unknown.

Results of wipe samples collected from the interiors of on-site buildings indicate the presence of PCBs at concentrations in excess of the TSCA Spill Cleanup Policy. The source of PCB contamination in building interiors has not been determined and may be a result of past releases to the environment and/or past releases to the building interiors.

THREATS:

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has reviewed the available sampling data and issued a Record of Activity for this Site. In the Record of Activity, ATSDR

concluded that PCBs are present at levels of public health concern at the Site and chronic exposure to PCBs in surface soil presents a public health concern to on-site workers and trespassers.

ATSDR has been consulted regarding the results of interior sampling and has determined that PCBs in the building interiors pose a potential long-term health threat to workers; a final health consultation is forthcoming.

On-site workers, neighboring residents and animal may be exposed to hazardous substance found on-site in soils, sediments and surface water. High levels of hazardous substances in soils may migrate and further contaminate the environment.

ACTIONS:

A removal site evaluation was completed for the Site in January 1997. Based on the available information the Site was determined to be eligible for a CERCLA Removal Action.

On February 4, 1997 notice letters were issued to the current property owner and past owner/operator notifying them of their potential liability and requesting they respond indicating their willingness to finance or perform the required removal actions.

On February 5, EPA and the ATSDR met with representatives of the Borough of South Plainfield Department of Health and The New Jersey Department of Health to discuss threats associated with the Site and the roles of local, state and federal agencies.

On February 13, the Mayor and Town Council of the Borough of South Plainfield were briefed on the results of EPA's investigation and the status of EPA's enforcement efforts.

On February 18, EPA, ATSDR, and the South Plainfield Health Department met with owners of businesses that lease space at the Hamilton Industrial Park and held public availability sessions for employees of these businesses on February 20. Site contamination, health concerns for on-site workers, and proposed actions to limit worker exposure were discussed at these meetings.

On February 20, EPA received responses from the two potentially responsible parties noticed for this Site. Cornell Dubilier Electronics has expressed an interest in negotiating an agreement with EPA for a removal action at the site. The response received from D.S.C. of Newark Enterprises, the property owner of the Site was inadequate.

On March 3, EPA met with tenants of the Hamilton Industrial Park, distributed facts sheets describing EPA's activities at the site and discussed plans for sample building interiors for PCBs.

On March 21, EPA/ERT sampled interiors at the Hamilton Industrial Park. Wipe samples were collected from high and low contact areas in occupied spaces. Samples will be analyzed for PCBs, lead and cadmium.

On March 25, 1997 a Unilateral Administrative Order to stabilize the Site was issued to current property owner, DSC Enterprises of Newark (DSC). The Order requires the property owner take actions to limit access to areas of known PCB contamination, limit the migration of contaminants off-site to the stream which borders the Site and pave driveways and parking areas within the industrial park.

On April 1, EPA discussed the planned removal action and distributed fact sheets to residents and business people in the community surrounding the Site.

On April 4, EPA met with representatives of the City of South Plainfield and two community groups the South Plainfield Environmental Commission and Edison Wetlands. The planned removal action and community concerns were discussed at his meeting. Response actions at the site will address concerns raised by the community.

On April 7, in response to concerns raised by community groups, EPA over packed several large electrical components which were leaking oil and installed temporary fencing and warning signs to block access to a footpath that crosses contaminated areas of the Site.

On April 10, the OSC met with the EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) to discuss the scope and schedule for an assessment of the Bound Brook. The goals of this study are to provide the data necessary to determine the extent of contamination in the Bound Brook; evaluate potential threats to public health from impacted surface waters; and evaluate impacts to ecological receptors.

On April 17, a letter was received from the current property owner, DSC stating that they agree to perform the work specified in the UAO.

On May 5, DSC submitted a Site Operations Plan (SOP) for the work specified in the Order. DSC is required to resubmit the SOP with revisions by May 30.

On May 14 the results of the interior sampling were released to the property owner and local and state health agencies. The property owner indicated that they are willing to work with EPA to address contamination within the buildings.

On May 15, EPA, ATSDR, South Plainfield Health Department and a representative of the property owner met with tenants and workers of the industrial park to discuss the interior sampling results, the potential health risk to workers.

PRESENT STATUS:

Modeling is being conducted by EPA/ERT to identify off-site areas potentially impacted by the migration of contaminants through the air pathway. Off-site sampling will be conducted to verify the modeling results.

A work plan is being prepared by EPA for a study to assess the impacts of contamination of the Bound Brook on human health and the environment. Surface water, sediment and fish tissue samples will be analyzed for contaminants of concern including PCBs. The results of these analyses will be evaluated to determine the risk to public health and the environment. It is anticipated that field work for this study will begin in June 1997 and that results will be available in October 1997.

A meeting is scheduled for May 22 with the PRPs (DSC and Cornell-Dubilier) to discuss future response actions at the Site.